

Appropriations: Clear Differences
How 2 Months Spending In Iraq Could be Put to Better Use
Example 7: Energy Independence & Global Warming
\$ 2.1 billion = 1 Week in Iraq

WASHINGTON – Even as the President presents Congress with his nearly \$200 billion request covering the \$10 billion a month we are spending in Iraq (paid for with borrowed money), he is trying to masquerade as fiscally responsible by manufacturing a fight over \$22 billion (roughly 2 months in Iraq) in investments that will make this a stronger and better country.

What would that \$22 billion achieve? Every day we're going to bring you one specific example of how Congress and the President differ on appropriations.

Example 7: Energy Independence & Global Warming
\$2.1 billion above the President's Request = The cost of one Week in Iraq

Gas prices are up, our dependence on foreign oil leaves us in a precarious position, and we finally have consensus that global warming constitutes one of the most significant challenges confronting society today. The last time we faced such a crisis, President Carter led efforts to make record investments into energy research. Unfortunately, those investments have been on the decline ever since Carter left office, leaving our nation as vulnerable today as it was then.

The President's Budget cuts renewable energy, cleaner energy and energy conservation efforts by \$195 million overall and essentially freezes funding for scientific research.

The House Bills reject those cuts and make significant new investments in efforts that tackle energy independence and climate change, **\$2.1 billion above the President's request, roughly the cost of 1 week in Iraq.**

This includes \$1.8 billion above the President's request for smart energy programs that reduce our dependence on foreign oil in ways that cut greenhouse gas emissions for things like:

- Renewable energy including solar, biofuels, wind and hydropower;
- Energy efficiency including Energy Star, vehicle technology, energy efficient buildings, and weatherization grants; and
- Clean energy production including technology to capture carbon exhaust and improvements to existing coal plants.

It also includes \$270 million above the President's request for scientific research into climate change – monitoring and predicting its effects and looking into ways our nation can both slow it down and adapt to it. This includes research at the National Academies, NASA, NOAA, NIST, USGS, the EPA, and the U.S. Forest Service.

These investments are a step in the right direction, closing the gap between Carter-era initiatives and today.

The differences couldn't be clearer.